

REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance of the subject application in view the foregoing amendments and the following remarks are respectfully requested.

Claims 1-20 remain pending in the application. New claims 21-23 have been added.

Applicants appreciatively note that claims 16-20 are allowed and claims 8, 10, and 15 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form.

Claims 1-7, 9, 11, and 13-14 are rejected under 35 USC 102 (e) as being anticipated by Bang (US Pat. 6, 618, 241). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

Bang does not disclose weights as required by claims 1, 16 and 17. What the Examiner refers to in the Office Action as weights 23 is instead an extended support (column 3, lines 29-34) which has nothing to do with providing weights in the support plate 16.

Claims 21-23 have been added to further define the invention. Advantageously, the present invention is usable with a curved surface because each of the toes 22, 24, 26 is moldable to a curved surface. By contrast, in Bang, the support plate 16 is prevented from being bent (column 4, lines 5-9).

For at least these reasons, claims 1-7, 9, 11 and 13-14 are not anticipated by Bang. Accordingly, the rejection should be withdrawn.

All objections and rejections having been addressed, it is respectfully submitted that the present application should be in condition for allowance and a Notice to that effect is earnestly solicited.

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including

extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 07-1337 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,

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A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kenneth M. Berner". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

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